

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

When confidential received image data is not retrieved from memory even when a predetermined time has passed, notification data indicating that the image data has not been retrieved is transmitted to the sender. The image data is deleted from a memory area upon completion of proper transmission of this notification data. Because image data deletion is carried out when transmission of notification data to the sender is complete, even if the confidential image data is deleted by the receiver, the sender is aware that the confidential image data was not received, and appropriate measures can be taken.